

## **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA or VA) Eligibility Information**

### **Eligible Programs**

Programs must be operated by public or nonprofit agency, or a combination of such agencies, and **provide direct services to crime victims**. These programs include, but are not limited to, sexual abuse and rape treatment centers, domestic abuse programs and shelters, child abuse programs; prosecutor based victim services, and other community-based victim coalitions and support programs including those who serve survivors of homicide victims. Programs must also demonstrate a record of providing effective services to crime victims. This includes having community support and approval of its services, a history of providing direct services in a cost-effective manner, and financial support from other sources.

Those programs that have not yet demonstrated a record of providing services may be eligible to receive VOCA funding, if they can demonstrate that 25% of their financial support comes from non-federal sources. It is important that programs have a variety of funding sources besides federal funding in order to ensure their financial stability.

Only those services provided directly to crime victims can be funded with VOCA funds.

Programs must also abide by any additional eligibility or service criteria as established by the CVAD (Crime Victim Assistance Division) including submission of statistical and programmatic information on the use and impact of VOCA funds.

### **Program Match Requirements**

The purpose of program match requirements is to increase the amount of resources available to the programs supported by VOCA funds. A 20% cash or in-kind match is required. This match percentage is based on the total cost of each VA program (VA award plus match). This match must be from non-federal sources, except as provided in the most recent Office of Justice Programs Financial Guide located at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/>. All funds designated as match are restricted to the same uses as the VOCA funds and must be expended within the contract period.

VA programs must maintain records that clearly show the source, the amount, and the period during which the match was allocated. The basis for determining the value of personal services, materials, equipment, and space must be documented. Volunteer services must also be documented.

### **Contract Period**

Contracts will be issued annually for the contract period. Each contract is for a 12-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Each funded program must be in compliance with state and federal rules and in good standing with the Victim Services Support Program (VSS) requirements and procedures to receive funding and future funding.

Programs will not be allowed to carry-over or extend prior awards into the next fiscal year. Any prior award amounts remaining un-obligated as of June 30 will revert to the VSS Program. The VSS Program Administrator can make exceptions to this as needed.

Programs are funded on a reimbursement basis and are subject to the availability of federal funds. All funded programs must complete either monthly or quarterly claim vouchers requesting reimbursement,

and program performance reports. Programs will be required to receive reimbursement via electronic funds transfer (EFT).

**Non-Supplanting Requirements**

VOCA funds will be used to enhance or expand services and will not be used to supplant state and local funds that would otherwise be available for crime victim services. This is a federal requirement as required by Section 1404(a)(2)(c), and 1404(b)(1), codified at 42 U.S.C. 10603(a)(2) and (b)(1) and (2).

Meeting eligibility requirements does not guarantee your agency will be awarded funds. For more information about the award process please contact Victim Services Support Program (VSS) Administrator Donna Phillips at 1-800-373-5044.

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